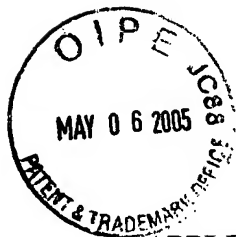


Appl. No. 10/753,248
Amdt. dated May 4, 2005



Atty. Docket: 1253 CIP CON FWC3 CON2
(203-630 CIP CON FWC3 CON2)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Green et al.

EXAMINER: TBD

SERIAL NO.: 10/753,248

ART UNIT: 3764

FILED: January 8, 2004

DATED: May 4, 2005

**FOR: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR APPLYING SURGICAL
STAPLES TO ATTACH AN OBJECT TO BODY TISSUE**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

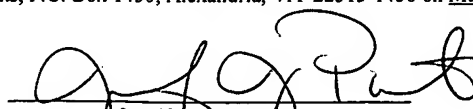
Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on
page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 4, 2005.

Dated: May 4, 2005


Jennifer J. Riente